

The Congressional Issue Monitor

Congressman Jim Nussle

Manchester, Iowa

Fall 2001

Jim Nussle's Agenda for Iowa...

➤ ***Protect our
Nation with
Homeland Security***

➤ ***Strengthen the
Family Farm***

➤ ***Eliminate Debt,
Lower Taxes &
Responsible Budgets***

➤ ***Long-term
Energy Strategy
Promoting
Renewable Sources
& Conservation***

➤ ***Retirement
Security for All
Iowans***

➤ ***Modernize
Medicare with
Prescription Drugs***

➤ ***Leave No Child
Behind By
Reforming
Education with
Local Control***

➤ ***Keep Our
Nation's Promise to
Our Veterans***

Protect Our Nation With Homeland Security

Fighting Terrorism at Home and Around the World

"Americans have proven time and again to be the most resilient people on earth, and I have no doubt this truth will be displayed to the rest of the world in the aftermath of this tragedy. The nation has confronted a series of strong emotions – initial shock, anger, and the desire for swift retribution. A great deal has been stolen from Americans, but our actions and attitudes in the coming days, weeks, months, and even years, will determine how long that theft is allowed to continue."

"This is the greatest nation on earth, and as the President has assured us, we will survive this tragedy and emerge on the other side stronger and more determined than ever to protect our freedoms and democracy. America is in mourning, but make no mistake, it is not crumbling. Together, nothing or no one can defeat us."

Jim Nussle

AGENDA GOALS:

- 1. Prevent Further Terrorist Attacks at Home and Around the World.**
- 2. Bring to Justice those Responsible for the September 11, 2001 Attacks on America.**
- 3. Improve Security at Our Nation's Airports and other Methods of Transportation.**
- 4. Support and Prepare our Troops to Combat Terrorism.**
- 5. Improve our Intelligence Capabilities in Light of the Recent Attacks.**
- 6. Protect our Nation's Energy and Water Resources.**

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Homeland Security Agenda Legislation:

Congressional Action:

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (H.R. 2888/ H.R. 2500)

- Provides \$40 billion in emergency funding for recovery from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and for the investigation to determine how best to enhance our national security.
- *Approved by Congress on September 14, 2001. Signed into law by the President on September 18, 2001.*

S. J. Res. 23

- Authorizes the use of United States Armed Forces against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States.
- *Approved by Congress on September 14, 2001. Signed into law by the President on September 18, 2001.*

Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee

- Formation of a new subcommittee of the House Intelligence Committee to examine all aspects of the terrorist attacks, including the vulnerability of America's infrastructure, and our counter-terrorism preparedness and response capabilities.

Mobilization Against Terrorism Act (H.R. 2975 & included in H.R. 3162, the USA PATRIOT ACT)

- Provides the President and Department of Justice the tools and resources necessary to disrupt, weaken, thwart, and eliminate the infrastructure of terrorist organizations, to prevent or thwart terrorist attacks, and to punish perpetrators of terrorist acts.

Economic Stimulus (H.R. 3090)

- Provides \$195 billion in tax benefits to individuals and corporations to help jump-start the U.S. economy.
- *Approved by Congress on October 24, 2001. Senate awaits action.*

USA PATRIOT ACT (H.R. 3162)

- Enhanced surveillance procedures.
- Expands domestic security.
- Expands role of federal law enforcement.
- *Approved by House on October 24, 2001. Approved by Senate on October 25, 2001. Signed into law by the President on October 26, 2001.*

Financial Anti-Terrorism Act (H. R. 3004)

- Enhances Public-Private cooperation to disrupt terrorist financing.
- *Approved by House on October 17, 2001.*

Bioterrorism Enforcement Act (H.R. 3160)

- Increases penalties for possession of biological agents.
- *Approved by House on October 23, 2001.*

Secure Transportation for America Act (H.R. 3150)

- Provides increased measures for aviation security.
- Requires a military presence at all airports.
- Higher standards for employment and training for airport security personnel.
- Deployment of Federal Air Marshals.
- Allows pilots to carry firearms in the cockpit.
- *Approved by the House on November 1, 2001.*

Executive Action:

Office of Homeland Security

- Appointment of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to lead, oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism and respond to any future attacks.

Terrorist Financing Executive Order

- Expands the Treasury Department's power to target the support structure of terrorist organizations by, among other methods, freezing U.S. assets and blocking U.S. transactions by terrorists and those who support them. In addition, the executive order increases the Treasury Department's ability to severely limit the U.S. activities of foreign banks who refuse to cooperate with U.S. authorities to identify and freeze terrorist assets abroad. This may be achieved through the blocking of the financial institution's U.S. assets and the denial of their access to U.S. markets.

Commercial Aviation

- Broadens new security measures including thorough searches of all airports and airplanes, prohibits curbside check-in, allows only ticketed passengers beyond security checkpoints, and provides additional uniformed law enforcement patrol in airports. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration has begun to put armed and trained civil aviation security specialists (Federal Air Marshals) on board selected domestic flights.